option found by the Consultant is a Railway line taking-off from Paradeep Yard parallet to port Railways lines through port area and then entering into IFFCO plant. This PETS report has been approved by the East-Coast Railways subject to approval by the Paradeep Port Trust Authority, IFFCO has been pursuing the matter with Paradeep Port Trust Authority.

Liquefied natural gas based chemical plants

1277. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) based chemical plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether such plants have set-up LNG terminals in their plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated cost of setting up of such plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the concerned ministries/departments and will be laid on the table of the house.

Exorbitant prices of medicines

1278. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharmaceutical companies charge exorbitant price for their drugs and formulations without any control/check;

(b) if so, the steps taken to monitor prices of drugs; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure availability of life saving drug in sufficient quantity at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed / revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. For any violation of prices fixed by NPPA, action is taken under provisions of para 13 of DPCO, 1995.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations.